

Harry Robinson House
HA 1910

This two story frame house is located on the east side of Main Street in the village of Cardiff, Maryland. Built around the turn of the century, this house is of a unique design and plan within the town of Cardiff. Like the majority of structures in the town, it is of late Victorian, neo-classical design with numerous windows throughout. What is unusual with this house however is that it is a wide, gable roofed structure with a two story bay window capped by a projecting cross gable centered on the main facade and two front entrances at the outer bays. Like most of the structures in this slate quarrying region, the foundation is of coursed slate and the roof is covered with hand-dressed slate shingles.

The house is best known for Harry Robinson, who with his brother, owned and operated the Robinson Feed Mill which was located just over the Pennsylvania line in Delta. It was, however, most likely built for Ellen Williams, daughter of Thomas J. Williams, in the 1890's and was a statement of considerable wealth within the context of Cardiff.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA 1910

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Harry Robinson House

2. Location

street & number 1625 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff

vicinity of

congressional district 5th

state Maryland

county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Richard A. and Virginia M. Weisman

street & number same

telephone no.: not available

city, town Cardiff

state and zip code Maryland, 21024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

liber CGH 1577

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl.

folio 956

city, town Bel Air

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. HA 1910

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two story frame house is located on the east side of Main Street in the village of Cardiff, Maryland. The house is three bays wide, with the middle bay having a two story three paneled bay window and the outer bays each having an entrance; a projecting cross gable with returns caps the two story central bay. This two entrance/ middle projecting bay window is an unusual configuration and the only one like it in town. A shallow ell projects from the north end of the rear elevation and a deep shed roof porch runs the length of the first story of the main, west facade. Like the majority of houses in and unique to this slate quarrying region, the house has a coursed slate foundation and is roofed in hand-dressed slate shingles. A substantial external, and somewhat ornamental, chimney is located at the north gable end, forward of the peak.

The wide expanse of the main facade is liberally endowed with windows, to include six windows in the two story projecting bay, two double windows in the upper story outer bays, and a single window at the projecting cross gable peak. At the lower story outer bays, the more elaborate main entrance is located at the south end and has transom, sidelights, and multi-pane door whereas the north entrance is simpler, with transom only. The porch has been modified with a brick balustrade and thick brick supports at either end. Winged animal figures are on either side of the centered steps leading to the porch.

Both right and left gable endwalls and rear side have numerous windows as well. The right gable end is four bays wide with small, square or diamond windows at three bays -- two forward lower, one upper -- of the stairwell. The remaining two lower and three upper bays are 1/1 sash. One 2/2 sash is located at the gable peak. An external chimney with sloped set-offs breaks the plane of the left gable end, with small multi-pane windows on either side of it at the first story and a 1/1 sash and small rectangular pane at the second. Additionally, another 1/1 and rectangular pane is in the rear lower and upper bay, respectively, and a 1/1 is at the gable. The rear wall has a secondary entrance with windows in all other bays. A one story shed roof porch projects from the service ell rear wall, with double windows in the upper story.

According to Bob Macomber¹ whose parents owned this house, the house is divided lengthwise, with a long living room and hall with stair in the front part of the first floor and kitchen, dining, and added bath to the rear. Stairs turn ninety degrees to the left midway and lead to an upstairs hall dividing the house transversely. Three bedrooms span the front part of the second floor. A fourth bedroom and the bath are located to the rear.

¹Conversation with Bob Macomber, March 13th, 1996.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA 1910

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Built around the turn of the century, this house is of a unique design and plan within the town of Cardiff. Like the majority of structures in the town, it is of late Victorian, neo-classical design with numerous windows throughout. What is unusual with this house however is that it is a wide, gable roofed structure with a two story bay window capped by a projecting cross gable centered on the main facade and two front entrances at the outer bays. The first floor is of a three room and hall plan; hall and living room span the front of the house, with kitchen and dining in the rear. The second story has five rooms; three bedrooms across the front and a fourth room and bath to the rear. A long hall transversally divides the house. Like most of the structures in this slate quarrying region, the foundation is of coursed slate and the roof is covered with hand-dressed slate shingles.

Little was uncovered about the history of the structure. The house is best known for Harry Robinson, who with his brother, owned and operated the Robinson Feed Mill which was located just over the Pennsylvania line in Delta. It was, however, most likely built for Ellen Williams, daughter of Thomas J. Williams, in the 1890's and was a statement of considerable wealth within the context of Cardiff. Having immigrated in 1854², Thomas Williams lived in the adjacent house to the north (HA 1909), and was undoubtedly a Welsh slater.

The village of Cardiff developed on the patented land tract of Thomas Hawkins called "Hawkins Chance". The 74 acre parcel was divided and sold by the Hawkins family to Welsh immigrants in the mid-eighteen hundreds for the purpose of slate quarrying. The town developed along Main Street in a linear pattern during the late nineteenth century "boom era".

²Obituary of Thomas J. Williams, The Delta Herald and Times, January 4, 1918. Courtesy of Mrs. Marion Scarborough.

Survey No. HA 1910

PS-2746

HARRY ROBINSON HOUSE

Title Search

CGH 1577/956	September 22, 1989	Grantor: Farrell D. Whiteford Grantee: Richard A. and Virginia M. Weisman Granted: town lot fronting Main Street on the east side 50', depth 159', with improvements.
CGH 1532/596	February 23, 1989	Grantor: John E. and Cheryl M. Macomber Grantee: Farrell D. Whiteford Granted: two lots, A and B, lot B being the parcel for this inventoried site and the only one continued here, with improvements.
HDC 1268/11	May 1, 1985	Grantor: Robert S. and Elizabeth Macomber Grantee: John E. and Cheryl M. Macomber Granted: same
HDC 961/47	October 29, 1974	Grantor: Charles H. and Sarah W. Robinson (Charles as only heir to Harry Robinson) Grantee: Robert S. and Elizabeth J. Macomber Granted: same
JAR 153/57	May 6, 1916	Grantor: Frederick N. and E. Jeannette Ramsay Grantee: Harry and Florence D. Robinson Granted: same, for \$750.00 and assumption of two mortgages at \$2500.00
JAR 145/403	September 25, 1914	Grantor: Bernadine R. and H. Austin Delcher Grantee: Frederick N. and E. Jeannette Ramsay Granted: same, for assumption of two mortgages at \$2000.00 plus interest.
JAR 130/413	May 25, 1910	Grantor: Ellen Williams Grantee: Bernadine R. Delcher Granted: same, for \$100.00 with improvements.
WSF 74/153	March 21, 1892	Grantor: Margaret Parry Grantee: Ellen Williams Granted: town lot fronting Main Street 50' by 159' for \$200.00, no improvements.

ALJ 71/104	May 9, 1891	<p>Grantor: Stevenson A. Williams, (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case WSF 41/351 Elizabeth J. Parry, daughter of Richard Parry v. Margaret Parry et al.)</p> <p>Grantee: Margaret Parry</p> <p>Granted: 200' by 159' parcel on east side of [Main Street], as part of lands described in equity case (less than 19 acres) to be subdivided into town building lots.</p>
Plat book DGW 2/64	1891	Survey plat of lots to be subdivided, South Delta Land Company.
Will Records WS 10/440	September 12, 1888	<p>John Parry, quarryman, bequeaths:</p> <p>To his daughter, Elizabeth, the house in which he resides and the 84' by 400' lot on which it stands.</p> <p>To his son, Richard Parry, all his remaining lands, approximately 17 acres</p> <p>To each of his children, Mary Williams, John, Richard, Jacob, and Elizabeth Parry 1/6 of his shares in the Welsh Slate Company of Harford County.</p>
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	<p>Grantor: Hugh E. Hughes</p> <p>Grantee: John Parry</p> <p>Granted: 10 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$1050.00</p>
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	<p>Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd</p> <p>Grantee: John Parry</p> <p>Granted: 2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" with improvements, on west side of Main St. (same as ALJ 25/346) for \$1200.00</p>
ALJ 25/346	April 11, 1871	<p>Grantor: Richard Hughes and wife</p> <p>Grantee: Jane H. Lloyd (daughter)</p> <p>Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch (see ALJ 9/29)</p>
ALJ 9/30	May 29, 1857	<p>Grantor: Richard Hughes et al.</p> <p>Grantee: John and Ellin Parry</p> <p>Granted: 8 acres 35 perches of "Hawkins Chance" for \$500.00</p>
ALJ 9/29	May 29, 1857	<p>Grantor: John Parry</p> <p>Grantee: Richard Hughes</p> <p>Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch</p>
HDG 36/424	July 27, 1850	<p>Grantor: Ro(w)land and Anne Parry</p> <p>Grantee: John Parry and Richard Hughes</p> <p>Granted: 3 1/2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$350.00</p>

HDG 36/215	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Rowland Perry Grantee: John Perry and Richard Hughes Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$600.00
HDG 36/214 (indenture)	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Benjamin Williams Grantee: John Perry et al. Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for \$200.00
HDG 36/212	January 22, 1850	Grantor: Archibald A. and Nancy Hawkins Grantee: Rowland Perry (Parry) Granted: part of "Hawkins Chance" for \$850.00, acreage unknown
HDG 34/492	February 9, 1849	Grantor: Edward Proctor et al. Grantee: Archibald A. Hawkins Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches
HD 14/336	August 3, 1831	Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor Granted: The eighth part of land tracts "Hawkins Chance", "Williams Birthright", Mount Pleasant", and Montgomerys Delight". The four tracts contain 188 acres total. No mention of "eighth part" acreage.
Land Tract, Patented	After March 1774, when Harford est.	"Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Delta Centennial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centennial celebration which was organized by the Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

History of York County, Gibson. 1880.

Conversation with Bob Macomber, March 13, 1996.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995 regarding Parry family history.

Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Coversations with Ronald and Vera Ingool, March 17 and April 20, 1995.

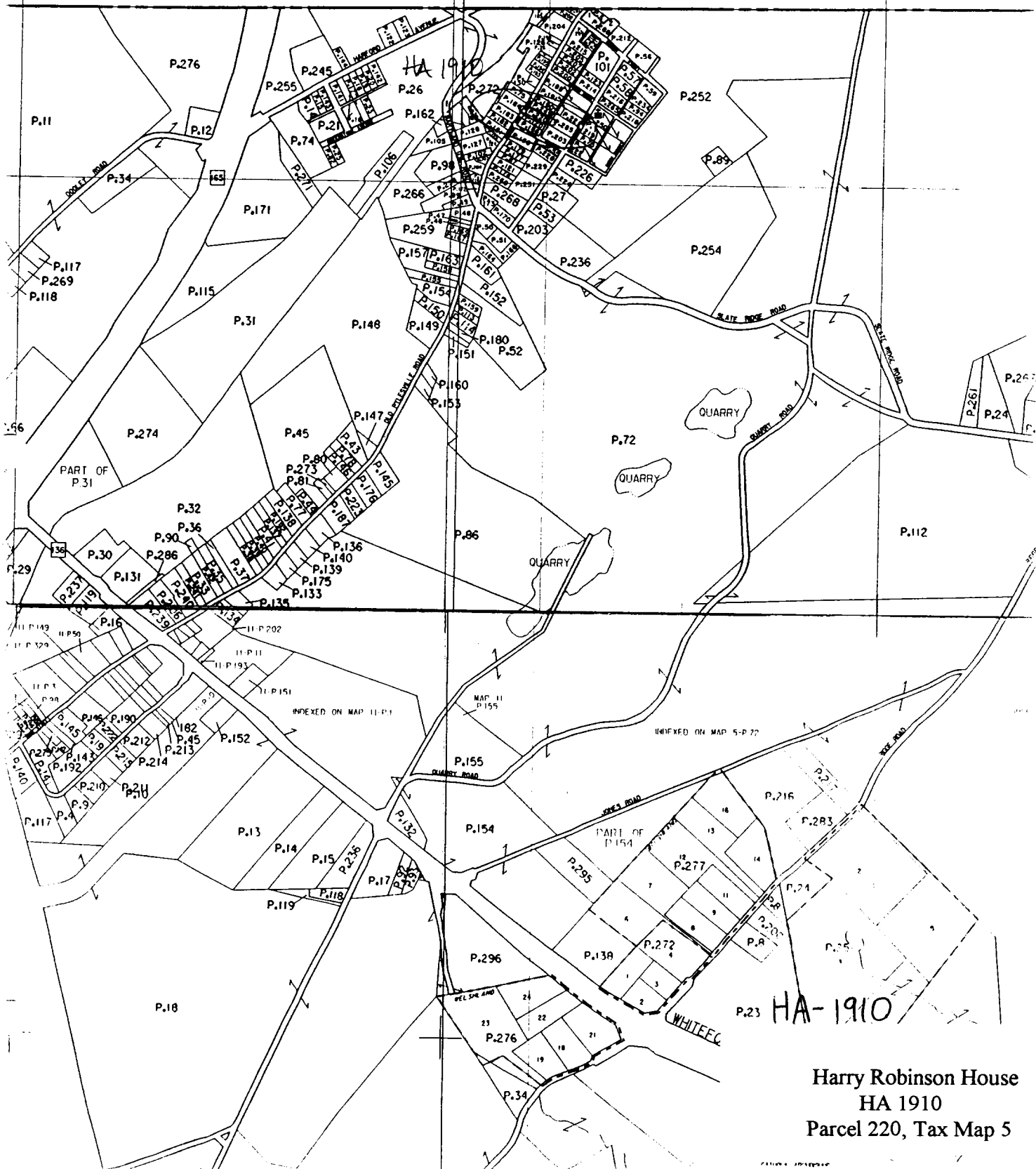
The Delta Herald and Times, Obituary of Thomas J. Williams, January 4, 1918.

Our Harford Heritage, C. Milton Wright. 1967.

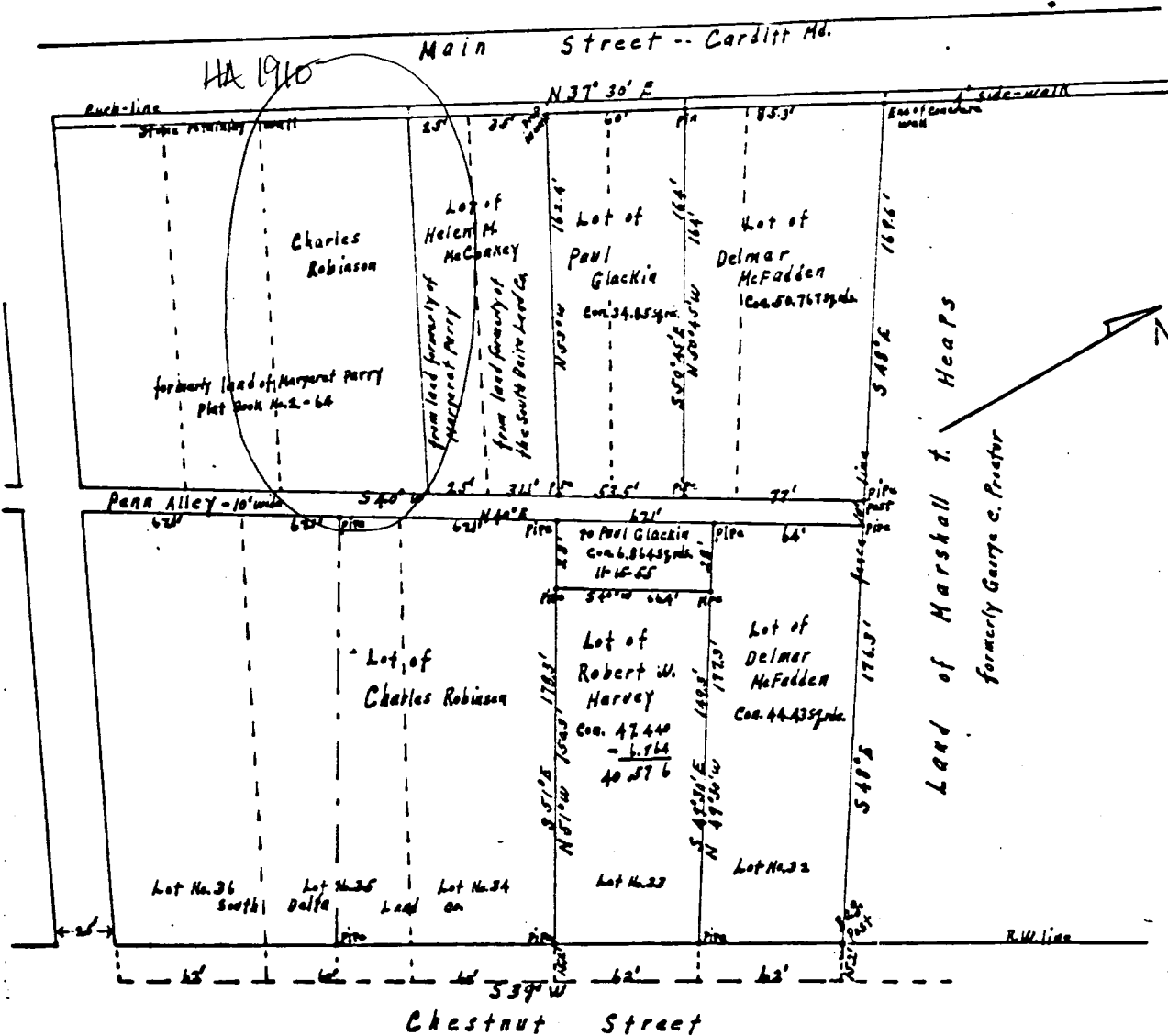
Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.

Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.



Harry Robinson House
HA 1910
Parcel 220, Tax Map 5



Scale 50 1"=10' 1"=50'

David R. Wilson
Surveyor
Bridgeton Pa.

Plot showing lots of the (all) South Delta Land Co.
as surveyed in 1891 & rec'd in Harford Co. land records
Plot Book No. 2, Page 64 and specifically showing the lots
owned by Delmar McFadden & wife, located between
Main St. and Chestnut St. Cardiff - Fifth Election Dist.
of Harford Co. Md. Surveyed Nov. 15, 1955 Doc.

RECD & RECORDED ND

NO 7045 FOLIO 52

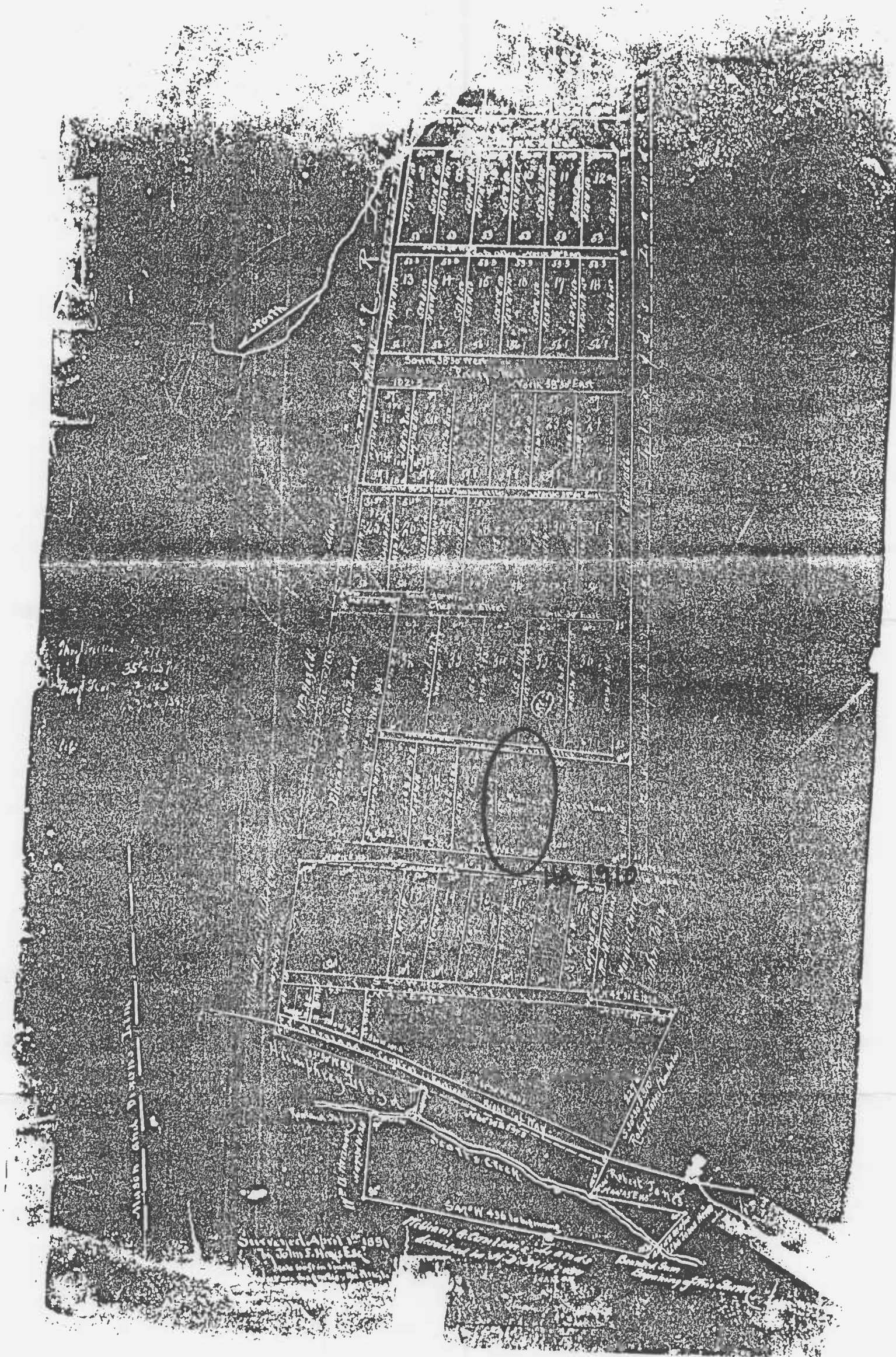
OCT 24 1 15 PM '77

HARFORD CO.
H. DOUGLAS CHILCOAT
CLERK

LIB. 1045 PAGE 54

PLAT of SOUTH DELTA LAND COMPANY!
1891

1891

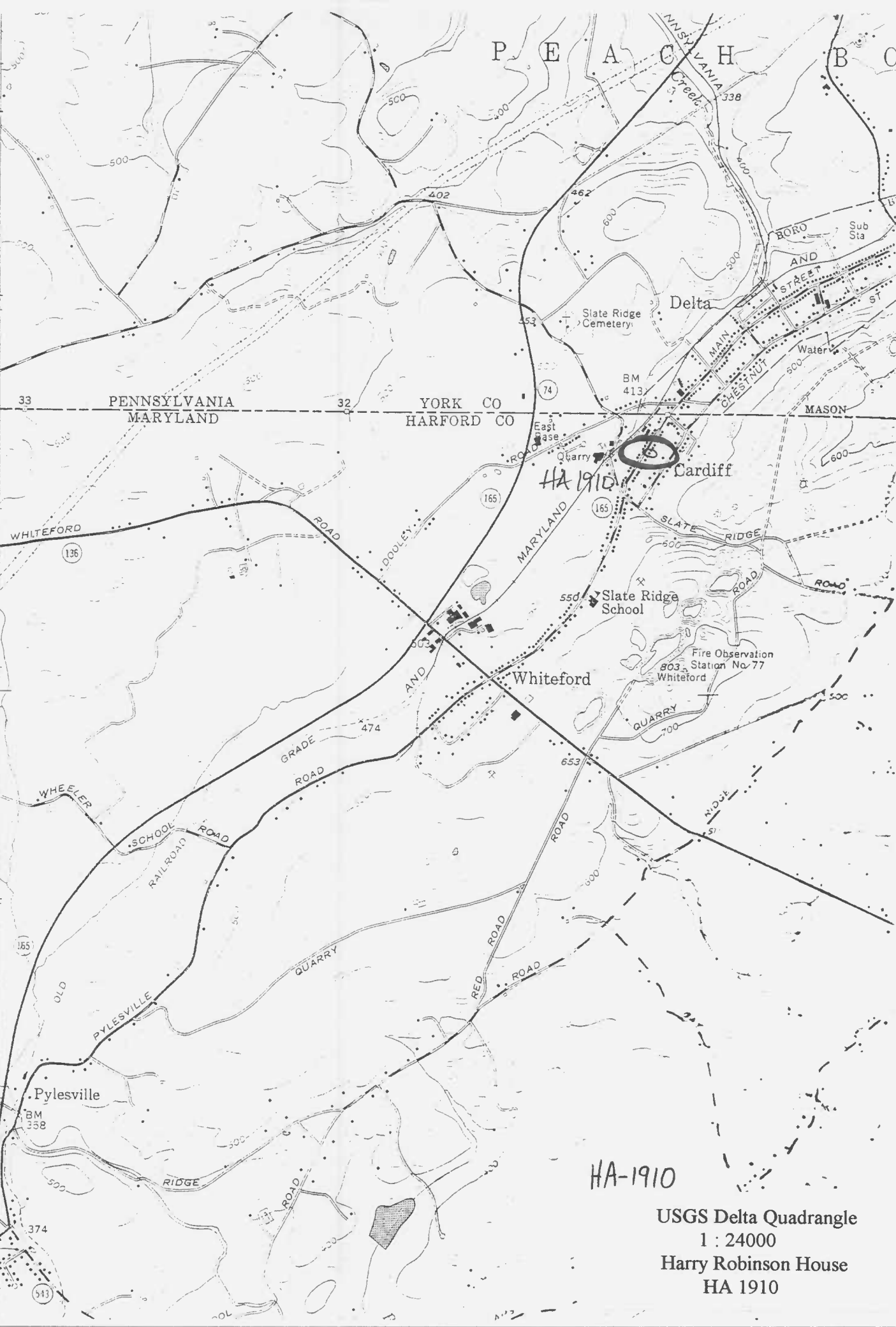


HA-1910

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

P E A C H B O

4399
4398
42°30'N
4396
4395
5763 III NW
(FAWN GROVE)
HILL 6.4 MI
WYNER 2.1 MI



HA-1910

USGS Delta Quadrangle
1 : 24000
Harry Robinson House
HA 1910



24 198

Harry Johnson House

Highland County, Maryland

Dianne Klein

April 1995

Highland SESE

View east from Main Street

1/1